DEMAND XXIV—MEDICAL.

MR. C. P. GOPALA PANICKER: I move for a grant of Rs. 13,100 under Demand XXIV—Medical, for payment of the cost of the Ambulance Cars, supplied to the Medical Department by the State Transport Department, as there is no fund available in the sanctioned budget for diversion.

MR. K. P. KOCHUKORA THARAKAN: ഈ ആംബുലൻസു കാറുകൾ ഉപയോഗത്തിൽ വന്നോ അതോ വരാൻ പോകുന്നതേയുള്ളോ?

MR. C. P. GOPALA PANICKER: ഉപയോഗത്തിൽ വന്നുകഴിഞ്ഞു.

MR. M. R. NARAYANA PILLAI: When were the cars supplied to the Medical Department?

MR. C. P. GOPALA PANICKER: Some time ago. It was before the Budget was submitted to Government by the Department.

MR. M. R. NARAYANA PILLAI: Does the honourable Member refer to the budget for 1118 or 1119?

MR. C. P. GOPALA PANICKER: I am referring to the Budget for 1119. The Ambulance buses were originally purchased by the Transport Department. At the request of the Government they converted them into Ambulance cars for the use of the Medical Department, and the Medical Department have been asked to take possession of those cars. Incidentally I may say that these cars were used in connection with the A. R. P. When that was stopped, at the request of the Medical Department, Government were pleased to place these cars at their disposal. Now they want to pay the cost of these buses to the Transport Department.

MR. M. R. NARAYANA PILLAI: Has the Transport Department to bear any portion of the cost of these cars?

MR. C. P. GOPALA PANICKAR: No; they did not make use of these buses for their own use.

The motion was put and carried and the grant was made.

MR. C. P. GOPALA PANICKER: Sir, I rise to move for a grant of Rs. 1,230 under demand XXIV—Medical, for the appointment of a Lay Secretary for the General Hospital, Ophthalmic Hospital and the Medical Stores, Trivandrum. This is a new appointment and Government want to try it only as an experiment. At present the Surgeons in charge of the General Hospital, Ophthalmic Hospital and the Medical Stores, in addition to their professional duties have to attend to the checking of accounts, maintenance of registers, supervision over the Stores and such other things. With a view to relieve these Surgeons from these additional responsibilities so that they may devote more of their time to professional duties, Government thought that it would be advisable to give an assistant to them in the shape of a Lay Secretary who will look after such items of duties. This experiment was tried in Madras and Mysore and the Medical Committee which was started here some time ago recommended to Government that it would be in the interests of the Medical Service to have such an appointment made in the Medical Department. All of us know that it will not be possible for a medical officer to attend to the checking of registers such as diet register, stores register, etc. in the manner it ought to be done. All

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

these registers and accounts will be scrutinised by the Lay Secretary more thoroughly and as a result of which some savings also may be made to Government. It will also result in more time being made available to the Medical Officers to attend to their normal professional duties. Now this is thought of only as an experiment. If the experiment is proved to be successful, Government will place this matter again before this House for making necessary provision for the next year.

MR. K. P. KOCHUKORA THARAKAN: ഇതിനുമുൻപു ഈ ജോലികൾ ചെയ്തുകൊണ്ടിരുന്നതു് ആരാണ്?

MR. C. P. GOPALA PANICKER: Honourable members know that the dieting expenditure in the General Hospital has assumed large proportions on account of the large number of patients.

MR. KOTTALIL P. ABRAHAM: May I have an idea of the qualifications of the Lay Secretary?

MR. C. P. GOPALA PANICKER: The man selected should be one who has got general administrative experience with some knowledge of Accounts.

MR. K. P. KOCHUKORA THARAKAN: മെഡിക്കൽ സ്റ്റോറിന്റെ ചാർജ്ജുകൂടി ഒരു മെഡിക്കൽമാൻ വഹിക്കുന്നതല്ലേ നല്ലതു്.

MR. C. P. GOPALA PANICKER: The man chosen cannot be a medical man. He must know accounting and should have office experience.

PRESIDENT: The position of the doctor in the Medical Department in this respect is more or less that of the Munsiff. At the end of the day he has to attest his initials to the accounts presented to him by the clerk concerned. The man has been sitting all day long in the Bench and he has to put his initials to certain accounts, probably without knowing what he is doing. Such instances have not been rare. One or two came to my notice in another place and in another capacity of important documents having been initialled under the impression that they were some kind of office proceedings.

But that apart, so far as the medical man is concerned, he has absolutely no experience in accounting and the medical stores in the General Hospital are so large and things connected with them so complicated, that unless there is a man who knows the business side of it and who knows accounting, it will be very difficult to manage it. For an ordinary doctor, it will be very difficult to attend to these functions also in the midst of an operation or things of that sort. The experiment has been made in Madras and they say that it has worked very satisfactorily. We will also try the experiment. If it is successful there is nothing to prevent us from coming to the House for sanctioning the necessary expenditure on a permanent basis.

The motion was put and carried and the grant was made.

DEMAND XXVI—PUBLIC HEALTH AND SANITATION.

MR. C. P. GOPALA PANICKER: Sir, I rise to move for a supplementary grant of Rs. 20,000 under demand XXVI—Public Health and Sanitation. This amount is required to meet some additional and unexpected expenditure in connection with the prevention of cholera

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly